

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 9-11 are amended, and new dependent claim 12 is added. Support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and therefore no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Preston in view of Breivogel. It is requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn, and the claims allowed, for the following reasons.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 1, the present invention is directed to an abrasive cloth dresser. The independent claim recites a rotatable base metal having a dressing face on a surface thereof. A plurality of abrasive grain units each include a large number of abrasive grains, the abrasive grain units being arranged on the dressing face in a circumference direction of the dressing face. Adjusters are provided in recesses provided in the base metal such that bases of the adjusters are movable within the recesses. The adjusters correspond to each or some of the abrasive grain units. The adjusters serve to adjust a difference in height with respect to the dressing face between reference planes of the respective abrasive grain units, the reference planes each being defined by ends of the abrasive grains in the corresponding abrasive grain unit.

Preston is directed to a tool with abrasive segments. It is submitted, however, that Preston does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of adjusters provided in recesses in a base metal such that bases of the adjusters are movable within the recesses, the

adjusters serving to adjust a difference in height of abrasive grain units arranged on a dressing face of the base metal, as recited in the independent claim.

The Office Action relies on Breivogel in an attempt to remedy the deficiencies of Preston. It is submitted that Breivogel does not remedy these deficiencies, however, for the following reasons.

Breivogel is directed to a method and apparatus for conditioning a semiconductor polishing pad. It is submitted, however, that Breivogel also does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of adjusters provided in recesses in a base metal such that bases of the adjusters are movable within the recesses, the adjusters serving to adjust a difference in height of abrasive grain units arranged on a dressing face of the base metal, as recited in the independent claim. Specifically, it is submitted that Breivogel does not teach or suggest adjusters including bases on which abrasive grain units are disposed, and therefore Breivogel does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of such adjusters provided in recesses in a base metal such that the bases of the adjusters are movable within the recesses.

For these reasons, it is requested that the rejection of independent claim 1 be withdrawn. The allowance of independent claim 1 is requested.

Claims 2-8 and 12 are allowable for the same reasons as independent claim 1 from which they depend, as well as for their own features. The allowance of dependent claims 2-8 and 12 is therefore requested.

Independent claim 11 is allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. The allowance of independent claim 11 is therefore requested.

Regarding the rejections of independent claim 9, it is submitted that the claim is allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, as the method claim recite similar features to those recited in independent claim 1.

Notwithstanding the above discussion, which provides adequate grounds for the allowance of independent claim 9, it is submitted that the independent claim recites further features that are not disclosed or rendered obvious by Preston and Breivogel. Specifically, it is submitted that Preston and Breivogel, whether alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed features of setting adjusters provided in recesses in a base metal such that bases of the adjusters are movable within the recesses, the adjusters serving to adjust a difference in height of abrasive grain units arranged on a dressing face of the base metal, to dress an abrasive cloth to have a uniform surface.

For these reasons, it is requested that the rejection of independent claim 9 be withdrawn. The allowance of independent claim 9 is requested.

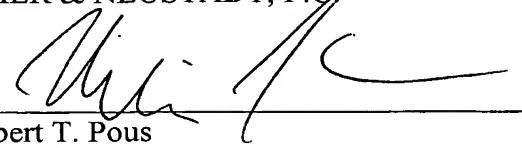
Independent claim 10 is allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 9. The allowance of independent claim 10 is therefore requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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